



2005 Louisiana Forestry Facts

How much forestland does Louisiana have? Forests cover 14 million acres, about 50% of Louisiana's land area, making it the state's greatest single land use. Fifty-nine of the state's 64 parishes contain land capable of producing sufficient timber to support forest-industry activities as well as provide habitat for wildlife, recreational opportunity, scenic beauty, and all the other environmental benefits timberlands provide.

Who owns Louisiana's forestland? There are 148,000 owners of Louisiana forestland. Private non-industrial landowners own 62% of the state's forestland, forest-products industries own 29%, and the public owns 9%.

Trees are Louisiana's No. 1 crop. In 2004, forestry accounted for 50% of the total value of all plant commodities grown in Louisiana, including cotton, feed grain crops, fruit, soybeans, sugarcane, and others. When you look at total value of Louisiana plant and animal commodities—beef, milk, poultry plus farm wildlife and fisheries—forestry contributes 38% of the value of Louisiana's agricultural commodities. Timber is manufactured by local mills throughout Louisiana into building materials, a variety of paper products and numerous other products used in daily life.

Do we put the trees back? In the 2004 planting season, Louisiana landowners (industrial and non-industrial) reforested the land with over 128 million seedlings, an average of 410,000 trees per day (six-day week), and at least 29 trees for each Louisiana citizen (official 2000 census shows a state population of 4,468,876). This includes about 55,000 acres of land (usually marginal farm land) converted to forestry. Another 10,345 acres were regenerated naturally.

What is the economic value of forestry to Louisiana? The impact of forestry and forest-products industries on our economy in 2004 was \$5.3 billion, an increase from the \$3.7 billion in 2003. In 2002 it was \$3.8 billion and in 2001 it was \$3.3 billion. In 1999 the impact was \$4.4 billion. In 1998 it hit a high of \$5.4 billion and in 1997 it was \$5.3 billion.

How much timber does Louisiana harvest? In 2004, 1.2 billion board feet of sawtimber and 6.3 million cords of wood were harvested. This compares to 1.3 billion board feet of sawtimber and 6.8 million cords of wood harvested in 2003. In 2002, there were 1.2 billion board feet of sawtimber and 6.3 billion cords of wood harvested. In 2001, 1.2 billion board feet of sawtimber and 5.8 million cords of wood were harvested. This was the lowest harvest level for sawtimber since 1982.

What is landowner income from forestry? Louisiana forest landowners received \$593 million in 2004 from the sale of timber compared to \$605 million in 2003. In 2002, landowner income was \$573 million. They collected \$519 million in 2001, \$655 million in 2000, \$680 million in 1999, \$744 million in 1998, \$610.3 million in 1997, \$594.9 million in 1996, \$635.3 million in 1995, \$554 million in 1994, \$491 million in 1993, \$402 million in 1992, and \$345 million in 1991.

How much do woods workers earn from timber? Louisiana timber contractors and their employees earned \$441.7 million in 2004, an increase from \$349 million in 2003. This compares to \$423 million in 2002 for harvesting trees and hauling the wood to the mills. The figure was \$373 million in 2001 and \$404 million in 2000. This was about \$7 million more than in 1999. It is estimated that each loaded log truck pays the equivalent of \$835 in local, state and federal taxes.

How many Louisiana industries depend directly on forests? Louisiana's forests support some 180 primary wood-using industries (such as sawmills and paper mills) located throughout the state and 750 secondary wood-using industries (including furniture manufacturers, cabinet makers, millwork plants and others that use the products produced by primary wood-using industries).

How many people do Louisiana's forest industries employ? Forest industries are the second largest manufacturing employer in Louisiana, providing about 18,215 manufacturing jobs (3rd Quarter 2004 report) but expansion in 2005 will add 215 new manufacturing jobs. This overall employment figure has declined from 25,802 in 2000 due to the closure of several mills. In addition, an estimated 8,000 people are employed in the harvesting and transportation of timber.

How much does Louisiana citizens earn from forest-products manufacturing jobs? Workers employed in forest products manufacturing earned \$854 million in wages in 2004, an increase over the \$800 million in wages in 2003. In 2002 wages were \$833 million, which was \$7 million less than 2001. Wages in earlier years were \$927 million in 1998, up from \$911 million in 1997, \$880 million in 1996 and \$855 million in 1995.

State and local governments benefit directly from timber revenues. Severance taxes from timber sales totaled \$15.1 million in 2004 – down by over \$2 million from \$17.5 million in 2003. The 2003 figure was up from \$16.4 million in 2002. In 2001, severance tax was \$18.6 million and in 2000 severance taxes amounted to \$18.6 million. Severance taxes were \$20.8 million in 1999, an increase from \$18.5 million in 1998, \$16.8 million in 1997 and \$16.6 million received in 1996. Parishes where the timber was grown received 75% of the monies; the state's general fund received the remaining 25% with a portion of the funds allotted to landowner cost share help for replanting.

Louisiana's forest industries are here for the long term. Forest-products industries invested almost \$1 billion in new equipment and plants in Louisiana during the last decade, reinforcing the long-term strength of forestry in our economy. The only new mill planned in the South will be built this year by Roy O. Martin Lumber Company. It will be an Oriented Strand Board mill in Allen Parish.

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Wildfire occurrence remains low but potential remains high. Continued Firewise education and fuel reduction methods, such as prescribed burning can reduce losses from destructive wildfire. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry recorded 1,464 wildfires that burned a total of 13,801 acres in 2004.

LDAF Enforcement agents were very busy in 2004. LDAF agents conducted 24 criminal negligence investigations and 219 arson investigations in 2004. This has lead to one arrest for criminal negligence, and two arrests and five convictions for arson.

Timber theft had a one million, three hundred fifty thousand dollar negative impact on forest landowners in 2003. Of the 137-timber theft investigations concluded in 2003, 134 investigations were conducted for forest non-industrial landowners and three were industrial. This equates to approximately seven hundred fifty thousand dollars in total value loss. The Office of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture & Forestry pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute 14:67.12 has been mandated as having primary responsibility for collection, preparation and central registry of information relating to theft of timber and has been designated to assist all law enforcement agencies in investigations of violations relative to these matters. Pursuant to that responsibility we have sponsored and passed several statutes addressing problems arising relative to timber theft. The latest being rules and regulations regarding the cutting, transporting and receiving of harvested timber. These rules and regulations addressed a severe lack of documentation on the cutting and moving of timber resources.

In the five years since it's inception the Louisiana FPP Program has allocated over 21.1 million dollars. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry continues to provide private non-industrial forest landowners with efficient cost share assistance through the Louisiana Forests Productivity Program. LDAF through the Louisiana Forests Productivity Program serviced 1,123 timber landowners in 2003. This includes the treatment of 86,615 acres and represents an expenditure of \$3.8 million dollars. FPP Program practices include tree planting, direct seeding, seven site preparations practices, chemical release and pre-commercial thinning.

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry Reforestation Branch continues to provide high quality, low cost seedlings for reforestation purposes. In 2004, the LDAF delivered 20 million pine and 3.5 million hardwood seedlings to landowners in Louisiana. This includes five pine species and 29 hardwood species.

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry dispersed \$368,200 in Urban and Community Forestry Grant dollars to 28 grantee communities. In 2004, the LDAF assisted 28 communities in Louisiana with Urban Forestry projects. The LDAF facilitated 22 communities in becoming or keeping their Tree City USA status sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Project Learning Tree continues to be a major forestry educational effort in Louisiana. Louisiana Project Learning Tree conducted 31 workshops. Over 769 new teachers were trained in PLT in 2004. There have been 20,023 educators trained in PLT since 1987.